

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 15, 17, and 18 have been amended. Claims 8, 11, 12, 14, 16, and 20 have been canceled without disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein or prejudice to the Applicants' right to file any continuation applications directed thereto. Claims 21-25 have been added. Support for the amendments and new claims may be found throughout the specification and Figures. No new matter has been added. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-7, 9, 10, 13, 15, 17-19, and 21-25 are pending.

In the Office Action dated February 10, 2005, claims 6, 8, 9, and 15-18 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that claims 6, 8, 9, and 15-18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include the features of original claim 8, and independent claim 13 to include the features of original claim 16. New independent claim 22 includes all of the features of original claim 9, new independent claim 24 includes all of the features of original claim 6, and new independent claim 25 includes the features of original claim 15.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, and claims 2-7, 9, and 10 that depend therefrom, claim 13, and claims 15, 17-19, and 21 that depend therefrom, claim 22, and claim 23 that depends therefrom, claim 24, and claim 25 are allowable.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 7, 10, and 11-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Flora (EP 1211918) in view of Reid (US 6,589,354). Applicants respectfully submit that in view of this Amendment, this rejection has been mooted.

All rejections and objections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If any point remains in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

BANINE ET AL. -- 10/747,613
Client/Matter: 081468-0307456

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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